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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 001131

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EAI](#) [SY](#) [IS](#) [IZ](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT DEMARCHE ON ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT DELIVERED

REF: A. STATE 45505

[B](#). KUWAIT 942

[C](#). STATE 31746

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (SBU) Ambassador raised reftel points with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Khaled Al-Jarallah on March [1](#)9. Foreign Minister Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah had already departed for Algiers to prepare for the arrival of Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who will head the Kuwaiti delegation to the Arab League summit.

[1](#)2. (C) The Ambassador stressed the U.S. is serious about the full withdrawal of Syrian troops and intelligence service personnel from Lebanon in accordance with UNSC 1559. He said the Lebanese people must be free of intimidation, especially in the run up to parliamentary elections. Al-Jarallah expressed concern about general Syrian interference in the region, but with regard to Lebanon, was more troubled about the role of Hizballah. He said Hizballah was playing a dirty role in Lebanon and the region, and would continue to create problems in Beirut and southern areas. He described Hizballah as difficult to contain, and recommended that some thought be given to integrating Hizballah's fighters into the Lebanese Army. He was critical of Hassan Nasrallah's statements and said Hizballah was prepared to play an extremely negative role in Lebanon if it felt it faced an internal and/or external threat.

[1](#)3. (C) On Israeli-Palestinian issues, the Ambassador explained the presence of Lieutenant General Ward in the region and spoke about the importance of promoting political, economic, and security stability. He also asked Al-Jarallah for an update on Kuwait's assistance to the Palestinian people. Al-Jarallah reported that in the past week, the GOK transferred USD 40 million to the PA, thus fulfilling the pledge made at the Beirut summit. Al-Jarallah said the funds were sent to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Cairo where they will be transferred into PA accounts. Al-Jarallah also said that 2 years ago, the GOK honored a PA request for USD 45 million. There were no immediate plans for other financial assistance, but he expected new commitments may come out of the Algiers summit.

[1](#)4. (C) Commenting on the return of the Egyptian and Jordanian ambassadors to Tel Aviv, the Ambassador encouraged Kuwait to consider ways to open a dialog with Israel. Al-Jarallah replied it was difficult to normalize relations with Israel when a lasting peace seemed elusive. He noted that the PA requested the GOK use the normalization of relations as a bargaining tactic with Israel. The Ambassador also encouraged the GOK support a diplomatic conference on bringing Magen David Adom into Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and left ref C points with the Under Secretary.

[1](#)5. (C) The Ambassador and Al-Jarallah also discussed the March 16 meeting of the Iraqi Transitional National Assembly, the importance of Iraqi sovereignty in the formation of its government, and the need for neighboring countries to normalize relations with the ITG.

[1](#)5. (U) Baghdad: Minimize considered.
LEBARON